

LOSS OF ANCHORS - TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Lost anchors are the root causes of many groundings and collisions and the crew and officers need to be aware of the risks involved and assess them thoroughly, especially in heavy weather.

A growing number of anchor losses reported in recent years prompted DNV GL, Gard and The Swedish Club to investigate this issue further. Based on an analysis of cases involving anchor and anchor chain losses, the project partners have issued a video and a presentation identifying the most frequent technical and operational causes, and the steps crews and operators can take to address them. Most anchor losses are preventable if proper maintenance and handling procedures are followed. One of the key findings of this investigation is the importance of the officers and crew being aware of the environmental loads their equipment is designed for. If these limits are not taken into account during shipboard anchoring operations, there can be significant damage to the vessel - even beyond the loss of anchor and chain. Another common cause was the crew's lack of expertise and training in the handling of anchoring equipment, including maintenance of the utmost important windlass breaks and the securing of the anchors and chains. There were also a number of instances where technical or equipment failures were among the causes.

Below you can find links to a video on anchor handling, a video of the presentation setting out the findings from the project, as well as a pdf version of the presentation.

[Anchor Awareness - video on anchoring and anchor losses](#)

[Anchor loss - Technical and operational challenges and recommendations \(video of the presentation setting out the findings of the project\)](#)

[Anchor loss - Technical and operational challenges and recommendations \(pdf of the above presentation\)](#)

[Case study for onboard safety meetings - Anchor awareness](#)

Gard updates such as Loss Prevention Circulars, Gard Alerts and Case Studies are issued regularly and contain information considered important to our Members and clients. Recently published updates can be found under "Updates" on www.gard.no.